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Arizona Corporation Commission

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Docket #

SW - 04305A - 05 - 0086

SW - 04305A - 05 - 0087

Susan Vancas
305 W. Main St.
San Manuel, AZ 85631
July 2, 2005

Dear Honorable Jane L. Rodda:

SW - 04305A - 05-0086
SW - 04305A - 05-0087

I would like to voice my concerns regarding the proposed sewage treatment plant to be built to replace the one BHP currently owns and operates in San Manuel, AZ. At first I was alarmed at the exorbitant amount of money we as home and business owners in the area would have to pay monthly when this transition came to pass. However, after attending the public hearing June 29, 2005 between the Corporation Commission and Coronado Utility Co., I am more alarmed that BHP has been allowed to operate for so many years (and continues to operate) a sewage facility that does not meet the safety standards required of such a facility in our county/state. I am now asking where are the regulating authorities who are responsible for overseeing and regulating such entities and why have they overlooked this infraction?

BHP was not held accountable for running a compliant facility, and it now appears that the responsibility of rectifying this situation is being placed squarely on the shoulders of the taxpayers of our community of San Manuel. As one of those taxpayers, I vehemently oppose this tactic by BHP and want them to supply the community with a sewage treatment plant that will pass the current regulatory standards other such facilities have to operate under before they pass the responsibility of operating a sewage treatment plant for our community to an outside entity. They are the ones who have the obligation to the community to supply us with sewage treatment as they agreed when they purchased the property from Magma Copper Co. several years ago and is also stated in our deeds. They should have been maintaining this facility all along, making needed upgrades, and meeting industry standards. If they had done this, there would be no need to start completely over with a new, up to date facility for which a bond must be issued to finance, and which the taxpayers of San Manuel will ultimately have to pay the exorbitant amount of money each month to repay.

It now seems to me that BHP has shirked its responsibility to this community and should be held legally liable to rectify this situation. The Corporation Commission should not even be trying to decide the issue of

whether or not Coronado Utility Co. is competent and their rates fair at this point, but should be deciding on why the current plant is not up to industry standards and who should be giving the community their updated sewage treatment plant. In my opinion, it should be BHP, not the taxpayers of San Manuel, who should be held responsible for these negligent acts and corrects the problem before selling anything to Coronado Utility.

As one of the concerned citizens present at the public hearing, I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for asking the tough questions of the Utility Co. and the Corp. Commission staff, even though no one could give you an answer, you got these onto the record. Perhaps now someone will be held accountable for their actions and we can move forward in a productive and fair way for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan Vancas".

Susan Vancas